

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I'd like to submit comments on Docket # 02-277, the Biennial Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules. It is my view, and the view of many of my neighbors, that media consolidation, with mergers and the ownership of multiple sources of information by a single corporation has already damaged democracy in this country. Information available to most of the population is shaped by interests whose loyalty is to stockholders and not to the ideal of a well-informed citizenry. Already many important events and public actions are stuffed away in back pages, or given minimal or no TV coverage, if they are thought by media CEOs to be against the interests of their advertisers or their own profits. We are citizens of the most powerful nation in the world, one which dominates events in the lives of many countries. The public is pitifully ignorant of government actions which are perpetrated in our name, and with our tax dollars. Even more media mergers, more control of information by financially powerful interests will deepen this ignorance and further disempower our citizenry. We need to hear as many voices as possible. We need local radio and TV stations; we need all the small, independent publications which bring us news which is not available presently in the major media. These independent voices must be able to compete and this becomes progressively more difficult as media ownership consolidates into a megalith. The people of this country need more reporters, reporters in more places where they can gather information about what U.S. corporations and U.S. government agencies are doing in other countries and they need multiple outlets here at home which will not censor or not print the information they send home. This is the only way our people will have a chance to give feedback to the government on actions such as the invasion of Panama, or U.S. support of *cuop d'etats* such as the one which almost occurred in Venezuela. If any changes are made in the rules they should be in the direction of limiting mergers and single ownerships of multiple media even further. Democracy is presently on the ropes and the media is in large part to blame.

Thankyou for considering my comments. I will not be able to attend your public hearings unfortunately but will follow their progress with great interest.

Very Truly Yours,

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